
Andover Town Council

Medical Officer's Report

1911.

May 1, 1911.

To the Mayor and Corporation of the Borough of Andover.

GENTLEMEN,—

I beg to submit to you my **ANNUAL REPORT** for the year 1910, copies of which have been forwarded in accordance with the Order, Act 16, Sec. 14, of March 23, 1891, to the Local Government Board and to the Hants County Council ; also to the Secretary to the Home Office, as required by Sec. 132 of the Factory and Workshop Act, 1901.

PHYSICAL FEATURES.

GENERAL CHARACTER OF THE DISTRICT.—Outcrop of the chalk bed ; springs issuing therefrom form the permanent source of the River Anton.

SOIL.—Loamy gravel, overlying chalk, excepting in the river valley, where alluvial soil overlies the river gravel and chalk.

LEVELS.—The district comprises numerous spurs from a table-land, some 300 to 500 feet above mean sea level, into the Anton valley. The level of the river at Andover is about 190 feet above mean sea level (Ordnance datum).

DISTRIBUTION OF URBAN PARTS.—By far the largest portion of the Borough is Rural, and comprises five fairly defined villages. The Market Town of Andover is situated near the southern extremity of the Borough, and contains about six-sevenths of the population.

OCCUPATIONS.—These include Agriculture, Iron Foundries, Railways, Shop-keeping, Gas Works, Milling, Brewing, Building, Watercress Growing, and Motor Works.

AREA AND POPULATION.—Your District covers an area of 6385 acres. The last census was taken in 1901, so that this is the last year of the decennary period and naturally the most difficult of which to form an estimate. At the census of 1901 the population of the district was 6500, and the average number of persons per house at that time was officially given as 4.4. As the number of new houses built since that date has been properly recorded the record was of some assistance in endeavouring to frame an estimate ; so a careful calculation based upon the houses occupied and the average increase of Births, with Deaths, together with other data, the estimated number of, inhabitants is 7300. It can at the best be but taken as a guess, but so long as it is under and not over the figures presently to be declared I shall be content.

BIRTHS AND BIRTH RATE.—During the year 179 Births were registered, of which one was illegitimate, 91 being boys and 88 girls. This gives a birth rate of 24.6 per 1000, a decrease of 3.4 on that of last year. The average of the previous ten years was 26.5.

NOTIFICATION OF BIRTHS.—This Act is not in force in your district.

DEATHS AND DEATH RATE.—The total number of deaths registered was 119. This included 13 deaths of non-residents registered as occurring in Public Institutions in the district (Workhouse and Cottage Hospital), so excluding these the correct number of deaths was 106. This gives a death rate of 14.5, a decrease of 0.6. on that of last year. The average of the previous ten years was 13.7. The causes of death were as follows : Whooping Cough 3, Diphtheria 1, Enteric Fever 1, Enteritis 2, Phthisis 6, other Tuberculous Disease 4, Accidents 2, Cancer 4, Bronchitis 9, Pneumonia 5, other Disease Respiratory Organs 1, Alcoholism and Cirrhosis of Liver 3, Diseases of Parturition 1, Heart Disease 12, Suicide 1, all other causes 51.

LONGEVITY.—Certainly when the table given below is examined it speaks well for your district as a residential one favourable to the prolongation of life. Here we have 106 deaths for the year 1910, and no less than 40 of them are beyond the allotted span, and as there were also 14 children under one year of age this leaves but 52 to represent the deaths between one year of age and 70, that is, between the very young and the very old. The oldest was 96 years. 70 to 80 years, 23; 80 to 90 years, 14; 90 to 100 years, 3.

INFANTILE MORTALITY.—During the year 14 infants died under one year of age, two more than last year. This gives an infantile mortality of 88.7 per 1000 births registered. The causes of death amongst infants were as follows:—Whooping Cough 2, Enteritis 1, Premature Births 3, Congenital Defects 1, Marasmus 3, Tubercular Meningitis 1, other Disease 1, Pneumonia 2. Six deaths occurred in the first four weeks of life, and eight infants were over the age of one month. One infant was illegitimate.

ZYMOTIC DEATH RATE.—The deaths from zymotic diseases were as follows:—Whooping Cough 3, Enteric Fever 1, Diphtheria 1, giving a death rate of 0.6 per 1000. This compares most favourably with 1.26 for England and Wales.

CANCER DEATH RATE. Four deaths were registered as due to this disease, giving a death rate of 0.3.

TUBERCULOSIS DEATH RATE.—Ten cases in all registered, a death rate of 1.4 per 1000.

OTHER RESPIRATORY DISEASES.—There were 9 deaths from Bronchitis, 5 from Pneumonia, and 1 other Diseases of Respiratory Organs, a death rate of 2.05 per 1000.

PREVALENCE OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

SCARLET FEVER.—Three cases of this disease were notified. One was a child who returned from school at Bourne-

mouth. I communicated with the Sanitary Authority of that district, who were unable to trace the cause. There was no other case there at that time. In the two other cases no cause could be traced.

DIPHTHERIA.—Nineteen cases were notified during the year, of which one proved fatal. Three cases occurred in a private school. No doubt these cases were caused by “carriers.” On visiting one of the elementary schools it was found that the dangerous practice of collecting pencils after each class was still done, contrary to the order of the Education Authority forbidding it. The County Medical Officer was acquainted with the fact, and a letter was addressed to the teacher so offending. Several cases coming from another school no doubt were due to the use by the infants of paint brushes for pasting coloured paper to make designs. These were also collected and placed in a box, and at the next lesson distributed again. The danger of this practice was pointed out to the teacher, and she at once stopped it. One case was removed to the Isolation Hospital.

EPIDEMIC INFLUENZA was prevalent at the beginning of the year of a very mild type, no death being registered from it.

ENTERIC FEVER.—Four cases were notified. The first was that of a man whose duty took him to Whitchurch, a neighbouring village, where the disease had been prevalent. The second case was his son, who no doubt contracted it from his father. The third case was a woman, who had not been away from the town, and no cause could be traced. The fourth was a child, at whose house a person had visited who had previously suffered from this disease, and who probably acted as a carrier. One death occurred from severe hemorrhage.

NON-NOTIFIABLE DISEASES MOST PREVALENT.

EPIDEMIC INFLUENZA was prevalent at the beginning of the year. Fortunately it was of a very mild type, no death being registered from this cause.

WHOOPIING COUGH was prevalent amongst the younger children of the elementary schools during January, February, March, May, June and July. This was a continuation of the epidemic commenced in December of the previous year.

CHICKEN POX was prevalent in April and December.

MUMPS.—A number of cases occurred in February and March.

ZYMOTIC DISEASE PREVENTION.

These cases were treated at their own homes, all having the necessary accommodation. In all cases on receipt of notification a visit was paid to the school which the child was attending, and the class carefully examined for evidence of the disease. The children living in an affected area were excluded from school, whilst the room, bedding, etc., were disinfected after convalescence.

DIPHTHERIA.—This disease was again prevalent during the year, 19 cases being notified, 13 less than last year, and of these one was removed to the Isolation Hospital. The cases occurred in the following months:—January 1, February 3, March 4, April 1, June 1, August 2, September 2, October 5. Of these the schools affected and number of cases was as follows:—National Schools 5, Gale's School 1, Private School 3. One case was that of a child visiting from London. The steps taken to check the spread of the disease were:—(1) The schools were visited on receipt of a notification, and the children of the class attended by the affected child were examined. (2) Patients were isolated at their homes or removed to the Isolation Hospital (3) Doubtful cases of sore throat were bacteriologically examined (4) No child was allowed to return to school until a bacteriological examination had been made, and not then until four weeks after convalescence.

In dealing with all cases of infectious disease bacteriological assistance is allowed by your Council for the diagnosis of diphtheria, tuberculosis, and typhoid. The institution of a County Laboratory has been proposed by the County Council. If it is approved I trust your Council will see their way clear to participate in the scheme. I am sure this would have the effect of decreasing the amount of infectious disease. The Local Government Board has sanctioned the provision of diphtheria anti-toxin, especially with respect to the keeping, distribution, and use of it. Your Medical Officer keeps a supply of it for the use of the poorer inhabitants. It has been generally used during the year with excellent results.

TUBERCULOSIS.—Ten deaths were notified as due to this cause. One case was notified. Four other cases were brought to my notice. These were visited, and the patients cautioned as to the danger to others if proper precautions in disinfecting and disposing of the expectoration were not taken. Also the advantage of outdoor air, good food, rest, sleeping in a separate room, the avoidance of excesses, and not to have windows closed in sleeping rooms. Spitting flasks as well as disinfectants were supplied. The rooms, bedding, etc., were disinfected after a fatal case. Your Council have sanctioned the provision of 50 permanent enamelled notices against spitting. These are to be fixed in public places in as conspicuous a position as possible. A circular was issued by the Clerk to the County Council stating that his Council had recently passed a resolution against spitting in public carriages and places of public entertainment, and suggesting your Council should make a bye-law on the subject, and accordingly the following bye-law which is now in force, was made :—Bye-law :—
“ No person shall, within the Borough of Andover, spit on the floor, side, or wall of any public hall, public waiting room, public carriage, or place of entertainment, whether admission be obtained thereto by payment or not. Penalty—Every

person who shall act in contravention of this bye-law shall for any such offence be liable to a penalty not exceeding five pounds."

ISOLATION HOSPITAL.—One case of diphtheria was admitted and treated in this Institution during the year.

BACTERIOLOGICAL WORK.—The following examinations were made :—For Diphtheria 24, Typhoid 3, Tuberculosis 6 ; total 33. An enquiry was received from the County Medical Officer asking for the average number of bacteriological examinations during the year, and this was supplied. Two children attending Andover Council Infants School were suspected of having suffered from diphtheria ; their throats were swabbed by the School Medical Officer, and a report, which was negative, forwarded to me.

PLAGUE.—Circulars from the Local Government Board and the County Medical Officer were received. In these attention was drawn to the fact that plague had become common amongst rats in Suffolk, is now spreading beyond the limits of that county, and also pointing out that it is desirable that some action should be taken towards the extirpation of such vermin in the various districts in the country. Your Council accordingly had leaflets prepared and distributed within the area of the Urban District, drawing the attention of owners and occupiers of property to the above circulars. This is an important measure, and should be encouraged in every way. The knowledge that this disease is conveyed and spread by rats make it a matter of great importance that they should be destroyed. The present rate of fatality in persons affected by plague is 100 per cent.

ANTHRAX.—A case of a pig supposed to have died from this disease was reported. A bacteriological examination was made, which showed a negative result.

CHOLERA.—A letter was received from the port of London Sanitary Authority notifying that a passenger landed at that Port from St. Petersburg, a cholera infected port, had proceeded to this town.

The Local Government Board issued an order that after the 9th January, 1911, a return as to the number of cases of infectious disease notified during the week was to be made to them by all Sanitary Authorities. A weekly summary of the return is made by the Local Government Board, and a printed copy is sent to each Medical Officer of Health. The effect of this arrangement is to extend to the entire country the benefit of the information of the occurrence of infectious disease, and doubtless will prove of great advantage.

VACCINATION.—The neglect of vaccination continues in this town, and there is now a considerable portion of the general population entirely unprotected against smallpox. These, if unfortunately an outbreak should occur, will form a very ready means of rapid spread.

SCHOOLS.—The following is a list of the Elementary Schools in your district :—New Street, Boys and Girls and Infants ; National, Boys, Girls and Infants ; Gale's, Infants ; Charlton, Smannell and Enham, and Hatherden. These have been visited during the year. The sanitary condition of the schools is good. The accommodation is getting very limited, and the Education Authority are contemplating additional school buildings. A circular dealing with the cause and prevention of consumption was sent for distribution, with the suggestion that the scholars attending the Elementary Schools would be an easy means by which these circulars would reach the industrial classes. I have attended the schools, and before distributing the circulars have delivered a short address to the children pointing out the causes of and the means to prevent the spread of the disease and asking them to take the circular home to their parents and have it placed

in as prominent a position in the house as possible for their own guidance and for the information of anyone seeing them. I believe this has done a great deal of good in spreading valuable knowledge amongst a class which unfortunately is most affected by this disease. Complaint was made of the employment of young children early in the morning and between school hours. This I referred to the School Medical Officer, who addressed a letter to the Managers on the subject. The Managers and Teachers have at various times during the year reported to me any child who to their knowledge has been exposed to contagion and have also sought my advice with regard to their exclusion. There are several small private schools in your district which are carried on in houses and cottages of limited accommodation. These schools are attended by the children of parents who cannot afford the fees of the larger private schools, or have some objection to sending their children to the public elementary schools. In my opinion these should all be registered by the Education Authority, not only as a safeguard as to the qualifications of the teacher, but also as to the proper suitability of the premises and the medical inspection of the children. A matter of some importance occurred during the year with regard to the giving of certificates of the absence of children from illness. No arrangement has been made by the Education Authority to pay medical practitioners for giving these where the parents are too poor to pay. I am certain that some such arrangement would lessen considerably the period for which children are kept away, and so affecting the school grants strengthen the hands of the School Attendance Officer. No satisfactory arrangement has been made with regard to fees for those children who are reported by the School Medical Officer, as requiring operation for enlarged tonsils or adenoids, the treatment of ringworm, or ear disease. At the present time one Authority (School) recommends the treatment, and asks another Authority (the Guardians) to pay in those cases where the parents are unable to do so, although the latter are not paupers. This to my mind is not a good policy, as apart from the fact that by applying to the Guardians for assistance you are de-

liberately pauperising by teaching these people to rely on the Poor Law Authorities, the Education Authority should deal with these matters, and not have to delegate them to another Authority.

SCHOOL CLOSURE.—After consultation with the County Medical Officer the Andover Council Infants School was closed from Jan. 28 to Feb. 13 in consequence of Whooping Cough.

DISINFECTION.—The disinfection of houses where cases of infectious disease have occurred has been carried out by the Sanitary Department, under the supervision of the Sanitary Inspector, no charge being made to the occupier. The walls and ceilings of the infected rooms and all furniture and other articles left in the rooms have been sprayed with a solution of formalin or fumigated with formalin gas. All necessary disinfectants have been supplied by the Council free of charge.

FOOD SUPPLY.—During the year visits have been paid to the shops, and also the stalls in the Market Place, where articles of food are prepared for sale. Messrs. Young and Son requested me to visit their premises and report on the manufacture of their sausages and faggots for the information of the Medical Authorities at Tidworth Barracks, and I was able to certify that the premises and apparatus were clean and in good order, and that the meat used was sound and of excellent quality.

FACTORY AND WORKSHOPS ACT, 1901.—During the year inspections have been made from time to time to ensure the proper observance of the requirements of the Act. No serious defects were discovered. The light, ventilation, cleanliness, cubic capacity, and sanitary provisions were found satisfactory.

BAKEHOUSES.—These have been visited, and their condition is generally satisfactory.

SLAUGHTER HOUSES.—There are four registered slaughter houses in the district. In no case has any breach of the regulations been detected.

DAIRIES AND COWSHEDS.—There are nine persons registered as cowkeepers and purveyors of milk. Visits of inspection have been paid to these, special attention having been given to the cleanliness of the premises, vessels and appliances. The cleansing of the hands of the milkers and the hind quarters and udders of the cows have received attention.

WATER SUPPLY.—The town area is supplied by a piped service direct to the houses, this supply being constant. The outlying parts of the district not supplied by the town mains is a large agricultural area, with houses scattered about. The Andover Town Council own the waterworks. The hamlets of Charlton, Hatherden, Wildhern, Enham, Woodhouse, Smannell, Little London, Andover Down, and Pickett Piece, numbering about 320 houses with a population of 1500, are supplied from wells, the general quality and adequacy of supply being good. A deep well in the chalk supplies the town. The wells in the chalk of varying depths supply the outlying districts. Periodical inspections of the sources are made by the Waterworks Manager and the Inspector of Nuisances. The water from a well at Charlton was examined by the County Analyst, who reported it affected by surface contamination. The necessary structural alterations were carried out to prevent this. A register has been completed containing particulars and information as to the water supply to all properties, which was most satisfactory.

HOUSE ACCOMMODATION.—Plans for 59 new buildings have been submitted to and passed by your Authority, and there is now sufficient accommodation for the working classes. All newly erected houses are thoroughly supervised. There are practically no gipsies or van dwellers in this neighbourhood.

DRAINAGE.—Your Council have been unfortunately engaged in litigation again this year. Your experience is similar to other Authorities whose effluent is discharged into a river, and I cannot see in the present state of the law how it is possible to ensure immunity from actions of this kind. The Act itself is crude, harsh, and inelastic, and ought to be altered or, better still, repealed as at present the law does not define or give a statutory standard of purity of sewerage that may be discharged into a stream. Nor does it give any indication of the best practicable available means; you are entirely dependent upon some one or other of the sewage purification processes in vogue at the moment, and it is the experience of all that many expensive fashions have come and gone; but others take their place, so that many poor and well taxed communities have the “best available means” thrust upon them, little to their physical good and much to their financial detriment. The following works have been carried out during the year:—1840 ft. extension of sewers in Charlton and Weyhill Roads, to meet the requirements of old and new houses therein, at a cost of £700. A number of new houses have been erected in Vigo Road. An extension of the sewerage system to those houses is necessary, and I have no doubt your Council will order this work to be carried out at an early date. The sewage system generally is in good order, and flushing is resorted to at necessary intervals. With regard to sewage disposal, your Council have acquired a large additional area of land for sewage treatment, and have engaged the services of Mr. Midgley Taylor, C.E., to arrange its laying out, and also to advise you as to any necessary additions to the purification works. In April a letter was received from an owner of property below the point of discharge of the effluent from your sewerage works complaining of the existence of sewage fungus in the small stream where the effluent enters. The County Medical Officer paid a visit to the sewage works in April, and took samples of the effluent at various points. The result of his investigation was not communicated to me. An

extension of the sewer in East Street was asked for to enable the owner of newly erected houses to connect his drains into the town system.

ANTI-TOXIN ORDER, 1910.—This Order sanctions the provision by Urban Districts of—(1). A supply of anti-toxin. (2). Medical attendance in connection therewith. (3). The necessary anti-toxin syringes. Your Council have already sanctioned the provision of anti-toxin for poor persons, and I keep a supply available for the use of medical practitioners requiring it.

THE HOUSING AND TOWN PLANNING ACT, 1909.—This Act gives you increased powers for dealing with unsatisfactory housing conditions. These powers it is hoped will produce some effect in the way of improvement of health of the community. With regard to this an important memorandum was issued by the Local Government Board in September, which required (1) The provision of a thorough inspection, to be carried out according to the varying needs and circumstances of the dwelling houses or localities of the district. (2) The instruction to the Medical Officer of Health to prepare a list of dwelling houses, the early inspection of which appears to him to be desirable. The Sanitary Inspector has been instructed to carry out these inspections, and I have recommended that they commence in New Street. The result of these inspections will be reported to your Urban Sanitary Committee, as your Council, in accordance with your powers under the Act, have delegated this committee to carry them out.

REFUSE DISPOSAL.—A weekly collection of house refuse is made, and it is immediately destroyed by burning. This has been satisfactorily carried out.

UNINHABITABLE DWELLINGS.—Five cottages in Chantry Street were reported to you as unfit for habitation. The owner was served with a notice to carry out the necessary repairs, and

informed that unless these were done the houses would be closed. The owner attended a meeting of the Urban Sanitary Committee, and after the urgency of the matter being explained, gave the order for the requisite repairs to be done at once.

PUBLIC BATHS.—These were open on Saturdays during the summer on the same terms as in previous years. The proprietor has modernised them by the establishment of an apparatus for the preliminary cleansing of the persons using them. At my visit I found the baths clean and in good order.

LAUNDRIES.—These have been visited and inspected from time to time.

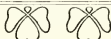
THE SUMMARY OF WORK done by the Sanitary Inspector (Mr. Knapp) is appended, and I must place on record my appreciation of his painstaking and able work, which is increasing year by year with the growth of the district and the adoption of new Acts.

I have the honour to be, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

ERNEST A. FARR,

Medical Officer of Health.



URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL OF ANDOVER.

Summary of Sanitary Work done in Inspector of Nuisance's Department during the Year 1910.

	No. of defects found.	Nuisance Notices by Inspector Authority.	Nuisances Abated after notice by Inspector Authority.
Dwelling Houses and Schools :—			
Foul Conditions.....	.. 3	.. 3	
Structural Defects .....	.. 18	.. 7	.. 7
Overcrowding .....	..* 1	.. 1	.. 1
Unfit for Habitation .....	.. 5	.. 5	.. 5
Dairies and Milkshops.....	.. 1	.. 1	.. 1
Cowsheds .....	.. 1	.. 1	.. 1
Slaughter-Houses .....	.. 5	.. 5	.. 5
Ashpits and Privies.....	.. 3	.. 3	.. 2
Deposits of Refuse and Manure.....	.. 9	.. 9	.. 9
House Drainage :—			
Water Closets .....	.. 12	.. 12	.. 12
Defective Taps.....	.. 9	.. 9	.. 6
No "Disconnection" .....	.. 3	.. 3	.. 3
Other Faults .....	.. 35	.. 35	.. 29
Pigsties .....	.. 1	.. 1	.. 1
Animals improperly kept .....	.. 1	.. 1	.. 1
Water Supplies Analysed	1		
Disinfection :—			
Houses Disinfected after Disease	27		
Schools ditto	1		
Cases removed to Isolation Hospital ..	1		
Food :—			
Seizures of Unwholesome.....	Nil		
Prosecutions	Nil		

R. WALTER KNAPP, M.R.San.I.,
Certified Inspector of Nuisances.

